(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The Government bas already announced a comprehensive package of measures for revitalisation Of the jute industry. The Government has been studying the problems of jute industry on a continuing basis and taking necessary corrective steps from time to time to improve its working.

Pension cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu

*250. SHRl M. VINCENT; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

Ca) what is the number of pension cases of freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu pending with his Ministry category-wise;

(b) what is the number of such cases Wnich have been pending for more than three years and what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken for their immediate disposal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRl BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Only 2 cases which are more than three years old are pending finalisation for want of State Government's verification report| clarification. The State Government are being reminded periodically to expedite their reports.

Credit restrictions on certain commodities

*251. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY;

DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a (fact that the Reserve Bank has directed the commercial banks not to extend credit against certain commodities;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether there has been a steep rise in the prices of such commodities since March, 1987 as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRl JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) tQ (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not asked scheduled commercial banks to stop granting credit against the stock of any commodity. On a review of recent price-output developments, certin provisions of selective credit conti ol in respect of a few sensitive commodities have been modified with a view to ensuring that bank credit is not utilised for speculative purposes. While advances agains: cotton-seeds, cotton-seed oil, paddy/ rice, cotton and kapas have been brought back under the purview of controls, the minimum margins on bank advances against stocks of oil seeds and vegetable oils (including vanaspati), paddy/rice, pulses and other foodgrains (excluding wheat) have been raised. The level of credit ceiling in respect of bank advances against oilseeds and vegetable oils (including vanaspati) have been reduced from 100 per cent fo 85 per cent of the peak level of credit maintained hy a Party during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85. The level of credit ceiling for bank advances against paddy rice, cotton and kapas has also been fixed at 100 per cent of peak level of credit maintained by a pany during the same years. In view of the rise in prices of turmeric and other condiments, banks have also been asked to exercise greater caution while providing credit against these commodities so as to ensure that banks' funds are not utilised for inventory building with speculative intentions. Banks have been advised to undertake a case-by-case review of advances granted against such commodities and where appropriate. to step up the existing margins suitably.

The severe drought in the country has put pressure on prices of Some important agricultural commodities during the current financial year. The credit measurestaken by the Reserve Bank of India are